

Docket No.: 1359.1042

Serial No. 09/808,004

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1-10 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A user-confirmation system for confirming, in a facility that can be used by presenting a recording medium capable of recording information, whether or not the facility is being used with authorization using a recording medium capable of storing information, comprising:
 - an owner registration apparatus placed in the facility and an owner confirmation apparatus placed in the facility, wherein the owner registration apparatus comprises:
 - a recording medium reading part for reading information on a use status of the recording medium,
 - a first biological information obtaining part for obtaining first biological information ~~on from a user~~ an owner of the recording medium at a time of first use of the recording medium; in a case where it is determined that the recording medium is presented for a first time in the facility, based on the read information on the use status of the recording medium, and
 - a ~~user registration biological information storing part for registering storing the obtained~~ first biological information in the recording medium, ~~considering the user as an owner of the recording medium;~~ and
 - the owner confirmation apparatus comprises:
 - a recording medium reading part for reading the information on the use status of the recording medium and the first biological information;
 - a second biological information obtaining part for obtaining second biological information from the owner of the recording medium, in a case where it is determined that the recording medium is presented at a second, later time in the facility, based on the obtained information on the use status of the recording medium; and
 - an ~~owner confirmation~~ a determining part for detecting second biological information on a user at a time of second and later use of the recording medium, and determining whether or not the owner at the time of the first presentation of the recording medium is the same as the owner at the second, later time of presentation of the recording medium by comparing the first

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biological information stored in the recording medium with the second biological information obtained by the second biological information obtaining part ~~the user using the recording medium is identical with the owner registered in the recording medium, based on the first and second biological information.~~

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A user confirmation system according to claim 1, wherein the owner registration part apparatus further comprises:

~~a biological information obtaining part for obtaining first biological information on a user at a time of first use of the recording medium;~~

~~a recording medium reading part for reading information on a use status of the recording medium;~~

a read data checking part for checking whether or not the recording medium is being used with proper authorization, based on the information on a the use status read in the recording medium reading part; and

a recording medium writing part for writing, in a case of use with proper authorization, the ~~first biological information on the user and the information on a the~~ use status of the recording medium in the recording medium, and writing, in a case of use without proper authorization, invalidity information on the recording medium and the information on a the use status in the recording medium.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A user confirmation system according to claim 2, wherein the owner confirmation part apparatus further comprises:

~~a user biological information obtaining part for obtaining the second biological information on a user of the recording medium;~~

~~a recording medium reading part for reading an identifier of the recording medium, information on a use state of the recording medium, and the first biological information on the user;~~

a use status checking part for checking whether or not the recording medium is being used with proper authorization, based on the information on a the use status read in the recording medium reading part;

~~a similarity determining part for calculating similarity by comparing the second biological information obtained in the user biological information obtaining part with the first biological information read in the recording medium reading part, determining authorized use when the similarity exceeds a predetermined threshold value, and determining unauthorized use when the similarity is equal to or lower than a predetermined threshold value; and~~

a recording medium writing part for writing, in a case of use with proper authorization, the

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information on a the use status and, if required, the second biological information on the user in the recording medium, and writing, in a case of use without proper authorization, invalidity information on the recording medium and the information on a the use status in the recording medium.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A user confirmation system for confirming, in a facility that can be used by presenting a recording medium capable of recording information, whether or not the facility is being used with authorization using a recording medium capable of storing information, comprising:

a biological information obtaining part for obtaining first biological information on a user at a time of first use of the recording medium; an owner registration apparatus placed in the facility, an owner confirmation apparatus, and a database, accessible from the owner registration apparatus and the owner confirmation apparatus, for storing a use status of the recording medium in the facility so as to associate the use status with an identifier of the recording medium, wherein the owner registration apparatus comprises:

a recording medium reading part for reading the identifier of the recording medium from the recording medium;

an owner registration part for registering the first a first biological information obtaining part for obtaining first biological information from an owner of the recording medium in a case where the database is accessed based on the identifier of the recording medium and it is determined that the recording medium is presented for a first time in the facility based on the information on the use status of the recording medium; and

a biological information storing part for registering the first biological information in the database so as to associate the first biological information with the identifier;

the owner confirmation apparatus includes:

a recording medium reading part for reading the identifier of the recording medium from the recording medium;

a second biological information obtaining part for obtaining second biological information from the owner of the recording medium in a case where the database is accessed based on the identifier of the recording medium, and it is determined that the recording medium is presented at second and later time in the facility based on the information on the use status of the recording medium; and

in a database disposed on a network, considering the user as an owner of the recording medium; and

an owner confirmation a determining part for detecting second biological information on a user at a time of second and later use of the recording medium, and determining whether or not

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the owner at the time of the first presentation of the recording medium is the same as the owner at the second, later presentation of the recording medium by comparing the first biological information stored in the database, so as to be associated with the identifier, with the second biological information obtained in the second biological information obtaining part.

~~determining whether or not a user using the recording medium is identical with the owner registered in the database, based on the first and second biological information.~~

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A user confirmation system according to claim 4, wherein the owner registration part apparatus further comprises:

~~a biological information obtaining part for obtaining first biological information on a user at a time of first use of the recording medium;~~

~~a recording medium reading part for reading an identifier of the recording medium;~~

a read data checking part for checking whether or not the recording medium is being used with proper authorization, based on the information on a use state extracted from the database, using the identifier read in the recording medium reading part as key information; and
a recording medium writing part for writing, in a case of use with proper authorization, the first biological information on the user and the information on a use status of the recording medium in the database and writing, in a case of use without proper authorization, invalidity information on the recording medium and the information on a use status in the database.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A user confirmation system according to claim 5, wherein the owner confirmation part apparatus further comprises:

~~a user biological information obtaining part for obtaining the second biological information on a user of the recording medium;~~

~~a recording medium reading part for reading an identifier of the recording medium;~~

a use status checking part for checking whether or not the recording medium is being used with proper authorization, based on the information on a use status extracted from the database, using the identifier read in the recording medium reading part as key information;

~~a similarity determining part for calculating similarity by comparing the second biological information obtained in the user biological information obtaining part with the first biological information extracted from the database, using the identifier read in the recording medium reading part as key information, determining authorized use when the similarity exceeds a predetermined threshold value, and determining unauthorized use when the similarity is equal to or lower than a predetermined threshold value; and~~

a recording medium writing part for writing, in a case of use with proper authorization, the information on a use status and, if required, the second biological information on the user in the

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database, and writing, in a case of use without proper authorization, Invalidity information on the recording medium and the information on a use status in the database.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for confirming, in a facility that can be used by presenting a recording medium capable of recording information, whether or not the facility is being used with authorization, wherein:

an owner registration apparatus and an owner confirmation apparatus are located in the facility;

the owner registration apparatus reads information on a use status of the recording medium and, in a case where it is determined that the recording medium is presented for a first time in the facility, based on the information on the use status of the recording medium, obtains first biological information from an owner of the recording medium and registers the first biological information;

the owner confirmation apparatus reads the information on the use status of the recording medium and the first biological information and, in case where it is determined that the recording medium is presented at a second, later time in the facility based on the information on the use status of the recording medium:

obtains second biological information from the owner of the recording medium, and determines whether or not the owner at the time of first presentation of the recording medium is the same as the owner at the second, later time of presentation of the recording medium by comparing the registered first biological information with the obtained, second biological information, a user using a recording medium capable of storing information, comprising:

obtaining first biological information on a user at a time of first use of the recording medium;

registering the first biological information in the recording medium, considering the user as an owner of the recording medium; and

detecting second biological information on the user at a time of second and later use of the recording medium, and determining whether or not the user using the recording medium is identical with the owner registered in the recording medium, based on the first and second biological information.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for confirming a user, in a facility that can be used by presenting a recording medium capable of recording information, whether or not the facility is being used with authorization, wherein using a recording medium capable of storing information, comprising: an owner registration apparatus and an owner confirmation apparatus

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are located in the facility and are capable of accessing a database for storing a use status of the recording medium in the facility so as to associate the use status with an identifier of the recording medium, comprising:

using the owner registration apparatus, reading the identifier of the recording medium from the recording medium, and

in a case where the database is accessed based on the identifier of the recording medium and it is determined that the recording medium is presented for a first time in the facility, based on the information on the use status of the recording medium, obtaining first biological information from an owner of the recording medium and storing the first biological information so as to associate the first biological information with the identifier;

obtaining first biological information on a user at a time of first use of the recording medium;

using the owner confirmation apparatus, reading the identifier of the recording medium from the recording medium, and

in a case where the database is accessed based on the identifier of the recording medium and it is determined that the recording medium is being presented a second, later time in the facility, based on the information on the use status of the recording medium, obtaining second biological information from the owner of the recording medium, and

determining whether or not the owner at the time of first presentation of the recording medium is the same as the owner at the second and later presentation of the recording medium by comparing registering the stored first biological information in a database, disposed on a network, considering the user as an owner of the recording medium; and with the obtained, second biological information.

detecting second biological information on a user at a time of second and later use of the recording medium, and determining whether or not the user using the recording medium is identical with the owner registered in the database, based on the first and second biological information.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable recording medium storing a program for controlling the computer to confirm, in a facility that can be used by presenting a recording medium capable of recording information, whether or not the facility is being used with authorization, and wherein an owner registration apparatus and an owner confirmation apparatus are located in the facility, by:

controlling the owner registration apparatus to read information on a use status of the recording medium and, in a case where it is determined that the recording medium is presented for a first time in the facility, based on the information on the use status of the recording medium,

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obtaining first biological information from an owner of the recording medium and storing the first biological information in the recording medium,

controlling the owner confirmation apparatus to read information on the use status of the recording medium and the recorded first biological information and, in a case where it is determined that the recording medium is presented for a second, later time in the facility based on the information on the use status of the recording medium, obtaining second biological information from the owner of the recording medium, and

determining whether or not the owner at the time of first presentation of the recording medium is the same as the owner at the second, later presentation of the recording medium by comparing the first biological information stored in the recording medium with the obtained second biological information. ~~to be executed by a computer for realizing a user confirmation method using a recording medium capable of storing information, the program comprising:~~

~~obtaining first biological information on a user at a time of first use of the recording medium;~~

~~registering the first biological information in the recording medium, considering the user as an owner of the recording medium;~~

~~detecting second biological information on the user at a time of second and later use of the recording medium, and determining whether or not the user using the recording medium is identical with the owner registered in the recording medium, based on the first and second biological information.~~

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable recording medium storing a program for controlling the computer to confirm, in a facility that can be used by presenting a recording medium capable of recording information, whether or not the facility is being used with authorization, and wherein an owner registration apparatus and an owner confirmation apparatus are located in the facility, by:

controlling the owner registration apparatus and the owner confirmation apparatus to access a database for storing a use status of the recording medium in the facility so as to associate the use status with an identifier of the recording medium;

controlling the owner registration apparatus to read the identifier of the recording medium from the recording medium and, in a case where the database is accessed based on the identifier of the recording medium and it is determined that the recording medium is presented for a first time in the facility, based on the information on the use status of the recording medium, obtaining first biological information from the owner of the recording medium and registering the first biological information so as to associate the first biological information with the identifier;

controlling the owner confirmation apparatus to read the identifier of the recording

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medium from the recording medium and, in a case where the data base is accessed based on the identifier of the recording medium and it is determined that the recording medium is presented at a second, later time in the facility, based on the information on the use status of the recording medium, obtaining second biological information from the owner of the recording medium, and

determining whether or not the owner at the time of first presentation of the recording medium is the same as the owner at the second, later presentation of the recording medium by comparing the first biological information stored in the database so as to be associated with the identifier with the obtained, second biological information, to be executed by a computer for realizing a user confirmation method using a recording medium capable of storing information, the program comprising:

obtaining first biological information on a user at a time of first use of the recording medium;

registering the first biological information in a database disposed on a network, considering the user as an owner of the recording medium;

detecting second biological information on the user at a time of second and later use of the recording medium, and determining whether or not the user using the recording medium is identical with the owner registered in the database, based on the first and second biological information.